



# Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. – Dave Hacker    V. Pres. – Kara Kish  
Treasurer – Robert Shepherd    Secretary – Dale Brier

**January 11, 2017 1:00 pm**  
The Garrison - Lawrence Room  
6002 N Post Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46216

## Attendance

### **Voting Members Present:**

Adams County- Sandy Voglewede  
Allen County – Ron Zartman  
Carroll County – George Mears  
Cass County – Arin Shaver  
Fountain County – Tim Shumaker (alt)  
Gibson County – Bill Knowles  
Huntington County - Dave Hacker  
Knox County – Rama Sobhani  
Miami County – Ken Einselen  
Parke County – Penny Cox  
Sullivan County - John Gettinger  
Tippecanoe County – Jim Andrew  
Vigo County – Kara Kish  
Wabash County – Michael Beauchamp  
Wells County – Doug Sundling  
DNR – Dale Brier (alternate)

### **Advisory Members Present:**

Jessica Faust - IDEM  
Bill Smith – INDOT

### **Guests:**

Dan Goen – Banks of the Wabash  
Phil Hendershot – Ohio River Greenway  
Sara Peel – WREC  
Keith Poole – Wabash Co. alternate  
Amanda McAllister – DNR budget  
Austin Taylor – Indiana DNR

### **Voting Members not present:**

Jay County – Doug Inman  
Posey County – Ralph Weinzapfel  
Vermillion County – Larry Southard  
Warren County – Steve Eberly

## Meeting minutes

### **Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda**

President Dave Hacker called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Dale Brier announced that Ralph Weinzapfel gave his vote to Bill Knowles and Steve Eberly gave his vote to Tim Shumaker. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

### **Review and Approval of November 9, 2016 Minutes**

Ron Zartman requested a correction to the dates for the SOL (Sunshine and Outdoor Living) Festival. It will take place on May 6 and 7, 2017, not May 4 and 5. Dave Hacker took a vote to approve the minutes with the correction. No one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Comments from Visitors or Guests**

**Ohio River Greenway Commission-** Phil Hendershot, chair of the Ohio River Greenway Commission (ORGC), handed out brochures about the organization. He stated that he has been reading WRHCC Minutes for years and has always wanted to attend a meeting. The ORGC is in the process of developing a seven-mile recreational corridor on the Ohio River that would unify Clarksville, New Albany, and Jeffersonville with a bicycle-pedestrian path and part of it would

follow Falls of the Ohio State Park. They are moving toward building the area into a unified park system.

**Indiana Department of Environmental Management-** Jessica Faust, the watershed specialist for IDEM in Northeast Indiana, welcomed all to contact her for necessary guidance or questions regarding watersheds and implementation grants in Northeast Indiana.

### **Finance Report**

Dale Brier handed out a copy of the financial report through December 2016 (see attached) and stated that there was an error. He and Amanda McAllister, the budget analyst for the Division of Outdoor Recreation, found the error just before today's meeting. The balance on the report is about \$14,000 less than shown. McAllister stated the error is a result of an incorrect query when the system generated the report due to an update. Brier noted that the error will be corrected by the next meeting. The current balance reflected \$55,000 that reverted from the now closed Pittsburgh grant project. John Gettinger inquired how much money the fund paid on the Carroll county grant. Brier stated the figure was about \$10,000. The grant was for \$65,000 and the fund received \$55,000 back. The group discussed going over the historic financial balances quarterly. Hacker requested a motion to approve the finance report, Erin Shaver made a motion and Sandy Voglewede seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

**Budget** – Bob Shepherd was unable to attend the meeting so he emailed the budget report to Brier. Kara Kish inquired whether the \$10,700 in the donation fund includes the \$1,800 expenditure for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon. Hacker stated that it did. Hacker then thanked those involved in putting the anniversary luncheon together. Ken Einselen moved to accept the budget report and Bill Knowles seconded. Motion carried.

**Executive** – The executive committee met prior to today's meeting to discuss the River Road Project.

**Nominating Committee** – Timothy Shumaker, Shepherd's alternate, stated that Shepherd nominated Dave Hacker to remain President and Kara Kish to remain the Vice President. With no nominations from the floor and no changes to the report, Hacker and Kish will remain President and Vice President.

### **Old Business**

**Strategic planning action item updates** – Kish stated that she would update the strategic plan after today's discussion and bring it to the next meeting.

**River Road Project** - President Hacker referenced the WRHCC meeting in September and the lengthy discussion about the River Road project, positives and negatives, and options. There was a ballot vote at that meeting regarding who wanted to continue and maintain the River Road in their counties over an extended period of time. One third of the members present did not feel they could, on a long-term basis, commit to the maintenance of the River Road as currently designed/proposed. Hacker then discussed the executive meeting just prior to this meeting. They discussed other options for the

River Road project. One option is having a virtual map, maintained by DNR, of the River Road. The map would show the route through each county, nearby parks and trails. In the future it could include tourism information or destinations in each county. It would also show where you are on the road via GPS on your phone or mobile device. The group then briefly discussed signs. Shaver requested that the topic of signs be revisited at a future meeting. Kish made a motion for the WRHCC to redirect its efforts to continue forward with the River Road route through the creation of a virtual map that identifies strategic locations along the River Road. Ken Einselen seconded the motion. The commission discussed the possibility of getting tourism involved. Shaver noted that all public access sites along the river should be included in the map. Rama Sobhani inquired about the mechanics of the virtual map. Brier replied that it would be a Web App, created through online GIS, InDNRMaps. It would be its own separate program on a webpage(s), but not a separate standalone download to a phone. Hacker requested an example of the application be presented at the next WRHCC meeting. Kish stated that her reason for making her previous motion was that the commission understood that if the virtual River Road map project was to be voted in and taken on, the commission would be billed for all of Austin Taylor's time spent developing the map. Gettinger inquired as to an estimated cost to complete the virtual map. Hacker replied that the commission would be billed for the time Taylor spends working on the River Road virtual maps. Hacker called for a vote to change the focus of the River Road Project from on the signage to a virtual map. Motion passed.

Hacker then 'floated' the idea that all commissioners who have signs already established that relate to River Road discuss the removal of these signs with their highway superintendent or necessary entity and the commissioners all agreed to do so. Only a couple counties have these signs up. The group then discussed different ways to promote and make the public aware of the River Road, such as a QR Code on a brochure.

**Previous Funding Requests** – Ron Zartman gave a brief recap of the SOL Festival funding request for Fox Island County Park in Allen County. The event is May 6 and 7. John Gettinger moved to approve the \$1000 funding request and Kara Kish seconded. Motion passed.

## **New Business**

**Funding Request** – Wabash River Boat Trip. Keith Poole requested \$2300 for miscellaneous equipment and expenses to travel down the entire Wabash River in a boat and film, take pictures, and publicize the trip for the benefit of the Wabash River. A written request was given to the secretary. Brier was uncomfortable with this type of sponsorship, especially because so much equipment was being purchased.

**Funding Request:** Sports and Fitness Series in Wells County. Doug Sundling asked for a \$1000 sponsorship for a series of fitness events in Bluffton. Many of the events are along the Wabash River. The WRHCC would be promoted on the participant shirts, websites and would receive four entries to all the events. This is the same event the WRHCC sponsored last year and it was a success. Kish noted that the Bluffton has a very dynamic parks department, especially for their size. A written request was given to the secretary.

**Funding Request:** Pedal, Paddle, and Play in Allen County. On behalf of Kyle Quandt, Dale Brier requested \$1000 for the Pedal, Paddle, and Play event being put on by the Northeastern IN Regional Coordinating Council on June 11. The biking and paddling event will be in Fort Wayne. This is the second year for the event and the WRHCC sponsored it last year as well. Ron Zartman commented that turnout was very good. The WRHCC would be promoted on social media and t-shirts. Two free tickets to the event are also included. A written request was given to the secretary.

**Grant projects updates –**

Brier handed out a brief grant project report for 2016 that Bob Bronson prepared.

- The Montezuma Reeder Park project will be complete once the final billings are processed.
- Penny Cox gave an update on the Montezuma B & O Trail Bridge. The county highway has already brought in the gravel and an Indianapolis company will be bringing in pre-formed concrete decking. They plan to install them soon.
- Hacker reported that, from a funding standpoint, the project at the Historic Forks of the Wabash will be closed within a month or so. Six of the seven bridge sections have been built and are ready to be hung. They plan to pour the concrete in the spring and have the bridge open by July 4 with help from volunteers.

**Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion**

**Other event announcements, festival dates for next year, etc.**

- Jim Andrew reported that the annual Wabash Riverfest will be held on July 8-9 this year.
- Michael Beauchamp handed out copies of an article recognizing the Wabash River Defenders for being awarded \$172,000 to conduct water quality testing, research, and membership building. They received grants from IDEM, IDNR, and the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF). The group discussed the different types of grants, mainly the IDEM 319 and IDNR Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) grants that can be obtained by organizations to aid in their efforts.

**Other announcements and final comments –**

- Tim Shumaker handed out brochures on “The Murals” of the Fountain County Courthouse.
- Zartman reported the May meeting will be at Fox Island Park in Ft. Wayne, there will be a hike along the continental divide berm before the meeting.

**Adjournment** – Rama Sobhani motioned to adjourn the meeting, George Mears seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.

**Next Meeting:** March 8, 2017 at 1:00 pm.  
Ouabache Trails Nature Center  
3500 N. Lower Fort Knox Rd.  
Vincennes, IN 47591

# 48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY17 as of 12/31/2016

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 53,087.26
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 4,521.42	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 327.00	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	\$ 133.51	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 498.44	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 356.80	
518151	Anthem Trad 2	\$ 78.84	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 6.44	
518796	Payroll Anthem Dental Trad	\$ 22.73	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 2.88	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 0.81	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 73.08	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 27.10	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$ 39.47	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 43.53	
591014	NonRealEstRnt-Meeting Rooms	\$ 80.00	
591024	NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	\$ 28.27	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 3,171.72	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$ 227.50	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	\$ 375.98	
595170	InState Travel - Parking&Tolls	\$ -	
595510	OutoSt Travel - Mileage	\$ 81.32	
599107	AdmOp - Art & Design	\$ -	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$ 2,000.00	
659410	Postage	\$ 220.52	
659792	Printing Service		

**Total FY16 Expense To Date: \$ 12,317.36**

Fund Balance:		
	7/1/2016	\$ 377,212
FY17 revenues		\$ 53,087
FY17 Expenses		\$ 12,317
FY17 Encumbrances		\$ 205,655
<b>balance as of 12/31/2016</b>		<b>\$ 212,327</b>

DNR payroll	\$ 6,088.52
travel costs	\$ 3,928.32
sponsorships	\$ 2,000.00
operating	\$ 300.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,317.36</b>